

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Phone: 503 326-2131
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157
E-Mail: nass-or@nass.usda.gov

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

Weather: It was a wet week, especially in central and northeast Oregon, with the arrival of some much needed precipitation. Widespread rain occurred in Harney County, where drought intensity has been rated extreme this season. Union and Sherman counties also received large amounts of rainfall. Some thunderstorms and hail were noted in Gilliam County, and Morrow County received an inch of rain in some areas. Cooler temperatures continued in the Klamath Basin. Snowpack levels in Oregon as a whole are roughly 50 percent of average. High temperatures were in the upper seventies in the Willamette Valley and in north-central Oregon, and were in the upper sixties most elsewhere. Low temperatures generally stayed above thirty degrees.

Field Crops: Widespread rains last week improved crop conditions, but slowed hay harvest in many areas. Some producers in eastern Oregon held off cutting any hay because of the wet conditions. Wind limited herbicide applications to no till grain acreage in Wasco County. In Clackamas County, cooler temperatures have slowed small grain and grass crop maturation. Central Oregon producers noted considerable damage from winter grain mite and clover mite to both hay and pasture land.

Vegetables: Rains were beneficial to earlier plantings of vegetables. Salad vegetables for local markets became more plentiful. Processing vegetable planting continued on schedule. Tomatoes were growing well. Rhubarb at full harvest. Other vegetable crops such as sweet corn, melons and peppers were being planted. Some corn for cannery showing good growth. Potatoes were doing well. Irrigation ongoing. Potato planting in Jefferson County completed. Rain storms in Klamath County resulted in some delay to potato planting, which is about 70 percent completed there.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: The strong sales and busy activities of the season continued. Sales should pick up even more with the arrival of summer annuals. Repotting and field planting were the main activities in Clackamas County, and greenhouses were still supplying starts to home gardeners. Easter lily fields were irrigated on the southern Oregon coast, and growers were roguing off-type plants from rows. New starts were planted in Jackson County, and ready-to-plant stock was being sold.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Precipitation throughout Oregon last week helped to improve range and pasture conditions across the State. Pasture conditions in western Oregon were reported mostly in the good to excellent categories. Eastern Oregon rangeland and pastures benefitted greatly from the additional moisture and were generally reported as fair to good. Cattle were being turned out into higher elevation rangeland and summer grazing areas. All livestock were reported in very good condition throughout the State.

Fruit and Nuts: Strawberry picking became more general and quality and flavor were good. Weather has been good for strawberry production. Most roadside stands were opened and some local gardens were selling out each day. Caneberry bloom was heavy. Cherries in the Willamette Valley were swelling. Apples were setting well. Filberts were looking good. In Hood River County, hand thinning of Bartlett pears got underway. Wasco County sweet cherries continued to ripen to the point where growers were beginning to see color in the fruit. Harvest is expected to be earlier than normal. Cranberry beds were in various stages of hook and bloom. Growers were weed trimming dikes and monitoring for insect pests such as blackheaded fireworm, cranberry girdler, and black vine weevil. Some growers were checking suppliers of beneficial nematodes. Pears, peaches and apples were getting cover sprays. Fruit was looking good and growth a bit ahead of normal for this time of year. Jackson County vineyards were blooming and showed good growth and promise for a good crop. Weather was a bit cool and wet for vineyards.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 5/23/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	95	92	78	94
Barley emerged (%)	80	72	64	—
Spring wheat emerged (%)	95	89	84	—
Winter wheat headed (%)	45	28	20	19
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.9	5.8	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 5/23/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	2	28	67	3
Subsoil (%)	6	35	57	2

Crop Condition - Week Ending 5/23/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	10	29	51	9
Barley (%)	—	3	18	67	12
Range & Pasture (%)	3	7	31	49	10

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat and most grasses have headed out, but cooler temperatures have slowed maturation. Strawberry picking has become quite general with good quality and flavor reported. Most roadside stands have opened. Caneberry bloom is heavy. Salad vegetables for local markets are becoming more plentiful. Processing vegetable planting is continuing near schedule. Nursery activity included repotting and field planting. Greenhouses still supplying starts for the home gardeners. Beef cattle and sheep appear to be in very good condition. Dryland pastures have benefitted from the cool, moist weather during the past week or so.

COOS/CURRY: Topsoil moisture estimate: 20% Short, 80% Adequate. Seven days were suitable for fieldwork in Coos and Curry counties during the week. Cranberry beds in various stages of hook and bloom. Growers were weed trimming dikes and monitoring for insect pests such as blackheaded fireworm, cranberry girdler, and black vine weevil. Some growers were checking suppliers of beneficial nematodes. Easter lily growers in Curry County were roguing off-type plants from rows; irrigation of Easter lily fields was underway; cultivation of new beds continued. Livestock good. Pastures are good to excellent. Precipitation was insignificant. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 55.0 to 55.2 deg F; highs ranged from 62.3 to 65.9 deg F, and lows ranged from 44.9 to 46.1 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 0.19 inches at Brookings-Harbor to 0.21 inches at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 41 GDD at Bandon to 42 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

JACKSON: Most grain crops are now planted. Some hay has been cut. Much of it got rained on this week, but some were lucky and got it in dry before the rain. Grass hay being cut and baled between sprinkles of rain. Alfalfa needs favorable weather before cutting and drying. Second cover sprays to begin next week, based on development of codling moth and San Jose Scale. Wild blackberries are starting to blossom. Pears, peaches, and apples getting cover sprays. Fruit is looking good, and growth is a bit ahead of normal for this time of year. Vineyards are in blossom and showing good growth, although weather is a bit cool and wet for them. Vegetable growers are busy with spring vegetable and flower starts. Tomatoes growing well; other vegetables crops being planted such as sweet corn, melons, and peppers. Nurseries busy with getting new starts planted, and selling stock ready to plant. Cattle, sheep, and other livestock looking good. Lowland pastures are still in very good shape. We had rain the first three days of the week, some quite heavy. It gave a good shot to hay, grains, and vegetables that were up and growing. Days have been in the high sixties and low seventies. Nights cooled to the mid forties. Most non-irrigated land is drying. Scattered light rains have helped in some areas.

JOSEPHINE: Beautiful weather! Cloudy skies then sunny skies. Warm then cool. Windy then still. Some rain. Temperatures 45 to 75 degrees. Blueberries continue to ripen. Local strawberries are good and the weather has been good for production. The local garden is selling out each day. Truck gardens planting corn, tomatoes and other heat loving crops. Early, so it is a gamble. Grapes continue blooming, showing

good promise for crop. Everyone is busy plowing and planting. Due to the unsettled weather, none of the ranchers have started haying yet. Nursery sales are picking up with the summer annuals coming in color.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Mint growing nicely. Grass seed has seeding forming on heads. Prune crops still look down. Some varieties of peaches good, some down in yield due to wet rainy weather. Apples having mega crop while blueberries a moderate crop. Blackberries and raspberries starting to bloom. Hard freeze damaged a lot of the kiwi plants. Grapes blooming and small fruits forming. Lots of vegetable plants going in. Farmers markets in full swing, with produce from greenhouse production. Nursery and greenhouses in full swing, with lots of sales. Weather influences buying habits. Harrisburg: 0.4 inches of rain. Forage Tall Fescue and Orchard grass pollinating now. Creswell/Pleasant Hill: Cool and moderately wet weather has slowed grass seed crop maturity. Good conditions for better than earlier predicted yield estimates. Wheat yield potentials are good. Disease control in wheat as well as most grass seed crops will be a big factor in yields.

MARION: Crops are early to mature in this area. Weather has been cooler but rain has been minimal and spotty. Grass seed crops could use more moisture; many fields are being irrigated if water is available. Rust sprays are being made on ryegrass and some wheat fields. Insect damage being reported on some spring and winter wheat fields. Mint, sugar beet and hop crops look fairly good at this point. Most crops continue to mature ahead of normal. Early grasses are headed out. A little rain fell this week but more is needed.

WASHINGTON: Red clover cutting to be ensiled. Alfalfa ready to cut, some down. Crimson bloom peaked. Grass for seed headed. Grass for hay ready to cut. Field corn up. Early strawberries at markets. Cane and blackberries setting on. Cherries swelling. Apples setting well. Filberts looking good. Some corn for cannery showing good growth. Potatoes doing well. Rhubarb at full harvest. Irrigation ongoing. Potted plant movement continues. Trees being balled. Cows and calves looking good. Pastures holding well. Much needed rain slowed some fieldwork. Over-moistened downed hay.

YAMHILL: Clover silage was in full swing this week. Alfalfa hay was being swathed down. Big thunder and lightning storm on Monday dropped about 3/4 inches of rain in about an hour but seemed to have missed the northwest corner of the county. Strawberries are starting to hit their pace and the rain didn't seem to bother them very much. Tall fescue is completely headed out and the rye grasses are right behind. Spotty rain this last weekend will be helpful as irrigation has begun on some crops. Hazelnut growers have been applying foliar boron sprays to increase nut set on orchard crops. Cherry growers have been applying control sprays for cherry fruit fly.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Annual crop planting nearly completed. Rain has been general, but amounts have varied widely between locations. It has helped the range considerably.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: The rains were spotty across central Oregon. There were hit and miss showers all week. Parts of central Oregon received up to an inch of rain early in week. Some downed hay got wet. Some beans being planted in Jefferson County. Potato planting completed. Winter wheat in Jefferson County is starting to head. Alfalfa hay is at vegetative to late bud stage and some of the grass fields have headed, depending field location. Harvest has begun on both, but only a few producers had hay down when rain hit earlier in the week in Jefferson County. Crook County and northern Deschutes County would have started harvesting some hay if the rains had not come through. All were after premium to supreme quality hay. Not much new hay has been put up yet or moved out of the area. A little hay was successfully baled before the rain. Not much damage from aphids on alfalfa this spring. But there was considerable damage from winter grain mite and clover mite to hay and pasture fields across central Oregon. OSU Extension is running some miticide trials on the winter grain mite and clover mite in grass hay and pasture fields this spring. A small planting of raspberries and strawberries is in Crook County for a road side U-Pick type operation. For those who received moisture, this will help the range grass growth immensely.

GILLIAM: Thunderstorms this week provided varying amounts of moisture in the form of hail and rain throughout region. Received 0.60 inches in Condon area over the weekend.

HARNEY: Most everything turned out. Range and stockwater doing fine for now. Widespread rain providing a timely and much needed boost to range grasses. Higher elevation ranges getting more precipitation but the desert looks better this week. Two more grasshopper hatches reported this week.

HOOD RIVER: Hand thinning of Bartlett pears is underway throughout the Hood River Valley. The first codling moth cover sprays and the first cherry fruit fly sprays were applied in the earliest lower valley orchards. Weekend rain resulted in pear scab infection periods at many locations in the valley.

KLAMATH: Cooler temperatures remained in the basin. Rain storms caused delays for potato planting. Most crops are planted and farmers are getting ready for the first harvest of alfalfa. Spring planting continues. Potatoes 70 percent planted. Cattle turnout on higher elevation.

LAKE: Received some much needed precipitation throughout the week.

MORROW: Had very timely rains this spring. Not an abundance of rain, but very timely when needed. Had around an inch of rain this week. We should be much better this year than the last few. Time will tell!

SHERMAN: Cooler than average temperatures and cloudy weather was the ticket and rain on the weekend! Over an inch in some places in the south! Winter wheat is heading out in the north. Pastures are turning but look fair to good. Fruit trees on the rivers have had a good blossom set.

UMATILLA: Potatoes and onions were early but look good. First cutting hay looking very bleak due to the timing of rain.

UNION: More rain! Crops and pasture improving. This was a very wet week in Eastern Oregon. It seems like Mother Nature wants to make up for an unusually dry March and April by giving us three months of moisture in two weeks of May. This was a welcome event for dryland farmers and, at least for this week, there has been very little talk about snowpacks, water levels, and potential droughts. In fact, irrigations systems have been turned off as most farmers are letting nature do the watering. Range and pasture conditions appear to be excellent as ranchers move their herds to summer grazing areas and allow their hay fields to grow out.

WALLOWA: During this week, received 2 to 3 inches of rain through most of the county. The snowpack has also increased due to the storms, but still below normal for this time of year. Crops and range are benefitting from these stormy conditions. Now, some warmer weather would be nice.

WASCO: Sweet cherries continue to ripen. Beginning to see some color in the fruit. This is very early. Although the weather has been cooler the last couple of weeks, because of earlier warm weather the harvest projection continues to call for an early harvest. Two tenths of an inch of rain fell over many areas Saturday. The week in general was quite windy for applying herbicides on no till grain acreage. Orchardists were busy applying insecticides on the cherry crop all week, both by night and day ground rigs, and areal spray when the mornings were calm. Alfalfa hay cutting was active in The Dalles, Dufur, and Tygh Valley areas. Cattle and sheep are doing well on dryland ranges and pastures, which are slowly changing from the pretty green color to shades of brown. Keep the rain coming!

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING May 23, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	46	67	56	4	47	25	0.24	-0.39	4	56.67	-4.22	93	168
Crescent City	46	61	55	2	38	10	0.04	-0.58	2	52.18	-9.81	84	135
Florence	40	68	55	2	40	14	0.48	-0.34	5	67.43	-3.69	95	164
North Bend	46	63	55	2	41	13	0.34	-0.26	5	61.82	2.08	103	156
Tillamook	43	64	54	3	32	14	0.76	-0.22	6	75.50	-5.66	93	174
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	44	75	59	4	65	27	0.63	0.21	4	29.47	-10.21	74	122
Eugene	39	71	57	1	49	3	0.39	-0.10	4	36.25	-9.68	79	135
Hillsboro	44	75	58	3	59	17	0.08	-0.27	3	28.54	-5.67	83	141
McMinnville	39	73	57	2	54	9	0.98	0.56	3	30.91	-9.65	76	139
Portland AP	49	77	60	3	75	19	0.41	-0.04	5	26.77	-5.91	82	138
Salem	42	72	58	3	56	17	0.61	0.19	2	35.24	-0.84	98	142
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	45	78	59	-2	66	-4	0.45	0.19	2	27.60	-1.97	93	111
Medford	45	76	58	-2	61	-3	0.55	0.34	3	18.79	1.51	109	108
Roseburg AP	45	76	59	1	63	9	0.38	0.07	3	31.10	0.54	102	128
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	38	72	54	2	31	7	0.89	0.62	4	15.31	3.73	132	84
Heppner	40	75	57	1	52	6	0.60	0.28	5	11.74	0.07	101	113
Hermiston AP	39	78	62	2	86	13	0.26	0.12	4	8.69	0.94	112	81
John Day	37	64	50	-6	14	-19	1.04	0.69	6	9.52	-0.62	94	99
Moro	46	75	57	4	55	23	0.47	0.26	3	10.29	0.68	107	80
Pendleton AP	43	74	60	1	73	10	1.07	0.86	6	11.56	1.27	112	88
The Dalles	44	79	63	8	90	51	0.15	-0.01	2	12.51	1.57	114	95
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	36	68	51	-1	14	-5	1.00	0.79	2	11.86	2.30	124	73
Burns AP	33	66	50	-4	7	-14	0.51	0.29	6	7.65	-0.17	98	77
Klamath Falls	33	67	50	-5	6	-25	0.43	0.22	2	11.40	-0.24	98	91
Lakeview	30	64	49	-5	2	-22	0.15	-0.20	3	8.38	-4.84	63	56
Redmond	33	70	52	-1	18	-5	0.94	0.78	2	8.31	1.68	125	73
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	30	63	50	-5	10	-18	0.56	0.27	6	6.09	-1.53	80	81
Joseph	29	59	46	-3	1	-6	2.10	1.61	6	12.41	-8.25	60	102
La Grande AP	36	66	53	-3	24	-14	1.81	1.46	5	11.27	-2.85	80	87
Union	34	67	52	-3	19	-7	1.59	1.22	6	12.43	2.17	121	105
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	40	73	56	-6	48	-30	0.46	0.28	5	7.60	-0.51	94	64
Rome	36	69	52	-6	17	-31	0.63	0.42	7	5.23	-0.96	84	65

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Janice A. Goodwin, Director

Oregon Crop Weather 08-04
Kevin Young, Math Statistician

Oregon Agricultural
Statistics Service
1735 Federal Bldg., 1220 SW 3rd
Portland, Oregon 97204

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